

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/863,315

Examiner

Brenda A Lamb

Applicant(s)

SAUREL ET AL.

Art Unit

1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview summary of 1/21/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4-11, 13, 14 and 17-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 5/24/2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Saliba on 1/21/05.

The claims are as follows:

1. (currently amended): A device for applying a coating to an optical fiber, the device including:
 - a die support;
 - a grid for applying the coating to the optical fiber, the grid being an integral one piece construction with the die-support; and
 - an entry die and an exit die disposed in the die-support on respective opposite sides of the grid and defining a passage for the optical fiber; and
wherein a radial face of the entry die is pressed against a first radial wall of the die-support and wherein the radial face of the entry die and the first radial wall are transverse to an axial direction of the entry die extending between the entry die and the exit die.
2. (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the entry die is disposed in a housing of the die-support whose diameter is greater than the inside diameter of the grid.

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3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended): The device of claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein a hollow part screwed into the die-support presses the entry die against the first radial wall.

5. (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the exit die is disposed in a housing of the die-support whose diameter is greater than the inside diameter of the grid.

6. (previously presented): The device of claim 5, wherein a radial face of the exit die bears against a second radial wall of the die-support, and wherein the radial face of the exit die and the second radial wall are transverse to an axial direction of the exit die extending between the entry die and the exit die.

7. (original): The device of claim 6, wherein a hollow part screwed into the die-support presses the exit die against the second radial wall.

8. (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the outside diameter of the die-support on each side of the grid is greater than the outside diameter of the grid.

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9. (original): The device of claim 8, wherein $D > \sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)}$ where D is the outside diameter of the die-support on each side of the grid, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

10. (original): The device of claim 8, wherein $D > 2\sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)}$ where D is the outside diameter of the die-support on each side of the grid, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

11. (currently amended): An installation for applying a coating to an optical fiber, comprising:

a device that applies a coating to an optical fiber, the device comprising:

a die support;

a grid that applies the coating to the optical fiber, the grid being an integral one-piece construction with the die-support; and

an entry die and an exit die disposed in the die-support on respective opposite sides of the grid and defining a passage for the optical fiber; and

a support for the device, the support comprising means for feeding the coating liquid around the grid: and

wherein a chamber is defined around the grid and is connected to the coating liquid feed means, in which the chamber has a volume greater than the inside volume of the grid.

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12. (canceled).

13. (previously presented): The installation of claim 11 ~~12~~ wherein the coating liquid feed means include a plurality of passages discharging radially into the chamber.

14. (currently amended): A die-support including a cylindrical grid of circular inside section and a receiver on each side of the grid in which is received ~~to receive~~ a respective entry die and exit die, wherein the cylindrical grid and the receivers form an integral one-piece construction; and wherein the grid has through holes that open into a common annular space surrounding the grid; and

wherein the outside diameter of the die support on respective opposite sides of the grid is greater than the outside diameter of the grid; and

wherein $D > \sqrt{d_i^2 + d_o^2}$ where D is the outside diameter of the die-support on each side of the grid, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

15. (canceled).

16. (canceled).

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17. (currently amended) ~~The die support of claim 15~~ A die-support including a cylindrical grid of circular inside section and a receiver on each side of the grid in which is received a respective entry die and exit die, wherein the cylindrical grid and the receivers form an integral one-piece construction; and wherein the grid has through-holes that open into a common annular space surrounding the grid; and

wherein the outside diameter of the die-support on respective opposite sides of the grid is greater than the outside diameter of the grid; and

wherein $D > 2\sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)}$ where D is the outside diameter of the die-support on each side of the grid, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

18. (currently amended): An optical fiber coating apparatus, comprising:

a die support having a longitudinal axis defining a path for passing an optical fiber through the die support so as to coat the optical fiber with a coating, the die support comprising:

a grid for applying the coating to the optical fiber;

an upstream part defining an upstream receiving portion, the upstream part having an outer diameter greater than an outer diameter of the grid;

a downstream part defining a downstream receiving portion, the downstream part having an outer diameter greater than the outer diameter of the grid; and

an entry die having a through-hole and disposed in the upstream receiving portion; and

an exit die having a through-hole and disposed in the downstream receiving portion; and

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wherein the grid, the upstream part, and the downstream part are made from the same piece of material as an integral one-piece construction; and

wherein a radial face of the entry die is pressed against a first radial wall of the upstream part of the die-support, and wherein the radial face of the entry die and the first radial wall are transverse to an axial direction of the entry die extending between the entry die and the exit die.

19. (currently amended) The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 18, wherein ~~the upstream part includes a first radial wall and~~ the downstream part includes a second radial wall, and wherein the first radial wall opposes the second radial wall to define an annular space around the grid.

20. (previously presented): The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the grid has a wall defining an interior of the grid and through holes in the wall that open into the annular space and communicate the annular space with the interior of the grid.

21. (previously presented): The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein one end of the grid is continuous with the upstream part to define the first radial wall, and the other end of the grid is continuous with the downstream part to define the second radial wall; and

wherein a side of the first radial wall facing away from the grid abuts against the entry die, and a side of the second radial wall facing away from the grid abuts against the exit die.

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22. (previously presented): The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the following relationship is met:

$$D > \sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)},$$

where D is the outside diameter of the upstream part and the downstream part, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

23. (previously presented): The optical fiber coating apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the following relationship is met:

$$D > 2\sqrt{(d_i^2 + d_o^2)},$$

where D is the outside diameter of the upstream part and the downstream part, d_i is the inside diameter of the grid and d_o is the outside diameter of the grid.

It is noted that on the last page of the draft amendment of 1/21/2005 and attached to the interview summary mailed 1/24/2005, Attorney Saliba has given direction and authorization to the USPTO to charge all required fees, except the Issue Fee and Publication Fee to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brenda A. Lamb whose telephone number is (571) 272-1231.

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The examiner can normally be reached on Monday and Wednesday-Friday with alternate Tuesdays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-2217-9197 (toll free).



Brenda Lamb
Examiner
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